

Calne *1913*

To the Urban Sanitary Authority.

GENTLEMEN,

In making the Annual Report for 1913 I have followed the instructions in the exact order in which they are issued by the Local Government Board for that purpose to Medical Officers of Health.

A.—Nature and Social Conditions of the District—

The Urban District of Calne is situated on both sides of the river Marden, a small stream which has its origin in springs which rise from the Chalk Downs about two miles above the Town.

The area of the District is 3,460 acres, the soil being of a brashy-clay nature resting on a foundation of coral ragstone. The District (as a whole) is well drained and dries quickly after rain. Neither the position of the Town nor the nature of the soil can be said to have any particular bearing on the general health of the inhabitants.

The Rainfall for the year 1913 was 26.81 inches.

There are no Public Hospitals or any other forms of free medical relief.

B.—Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

a. Water Supply.

The District is supplied for the most part by the Calne Waterworks Company. Some few houses, however, are supplied with water from wells. The water which the Waterworks Company supply is derived from springs which arise just below the Chalk Downs at Calstone. The water is very pure, hard in nature, but free from all traces of inorganic matter. It has no plumbo-solvent properties.

For the greater part of the Town the supply is ample, but for the houses which are situated on the higher parts

there is never sufficient pressure in the day time to insure a continuous supply, especially during the summer months. Some of these houses have no water supply for 12 hours or more in the day. There are several ways in which this difficulty could be met and steps should be taken to remedy what might easily become a source of danger to the health of the inhabitants.

b. & c.—There was no change during 1913 excepting that one public building and one private house have had old and worn out sanitary and sewerage arrangements demolished and replaced by new and very satisfactory ones.

d. Closet Accommodation.

The figures are now corrected which appeared in last year's report. They are still, however, only approximately correct.

There are approximately 234 W.C's without flush cisterns.

„	„	570 W.C's with flush cisterns.
„	„	17 Privies.
„	„	50 Pail Closets.

Six privies have been converted into W.C's or Slop Closets, 3 new W.C's have been provided, and 9 repaired, ventilated and supplied with new flush cisterns.

e. Scavenging.

Council carts remove the refuse from 518 houses. This refuse is collected from moveable ashbins once a week, and 454 loads have been removed and disposed of during 1913. There are no fixed ash middens.

The Privies and Pail Closets are emptied and cleansed by the occupiers of the houses to which they are attached. The material is used on allotments and gardens.

17 informal notices for removal of ashes, &c., have been issued and have been complied with.

16 W.C's have been inspected and informal notices given for cleansing, &c.

f. Sanitary Inspection of the District.

The following premises have been inspected :—

- 2 Bacon Factories.
- 9 Bakehouses.
- 5 Slaughter Houses and Butchers' Shops.
- 2 Motor Works.
- 2 Engineering Shops.
- 1 Gasworks.
- 3 Dressmakers' Premises.
- 1 Tailor's Premises.
- 1 Jeweller's Premises.
- 3 Bootmakers' Premises.
- 4 Carpenters' and Builders' Shops.
- 1 Painter and Paperhanger's Shop.
- 1 Manure Works.

Defects noted were—

- Whitewashing required.
- Want of cleanliness and tidiness.
- Sewer leakage.
- Nuisances arising from smells.

There were no defects of ventilation or lighting.

Informal notices were given in each discovered case and the defects and nuisances were remedied as soon as possible.

The Sanitary Inspector regularly visits the Slaughter Houses, Butchers' Shops, the Bakehouses, and the Manure Works.

g. Schools.

The following Schools have been closed during the year in consequence of Measles :—

- Guthrie School.
- Lord Lansdowne's School.
- Marden Infant School.

Food.

a. Milk Supply.

The Cowsheds, Dairies, and Premises of Milk Purveyors are inspected and have been found to comply with the Dairies' and Cowsheds' regulations of the Council's byelaws.

b. Meat.

No unsound meat has been condemned. The Sanitary conditions of the places where food is prepared are on the whole good. The Bakehouses of the District are clean and tidy.

No official order for the destruction of carcasses infected with Tuberculosis has been made. All the pigs killed at the Bacon Factories are inspected and those shewing distinct signs of Tuberculosis are at once destroyed.

c. Sale of Food and Drugs Act.

No case has arisen during the year.

Housing.

In accordance with Art. XIX (14) (k) of the Board's General Order 9, 13th September, 1910, and Art. V. of the Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909, the following work has been done during the year ending December 30th, 1913,

Number of dwelling houses inspected under and for		
	the purposes of Sect. 17 of the Act, 1909	91
„	representations made to Town Council with	
	a view to making of Closing Orders ...	3
„	Closing Orders made ...	2
„	Dwelling Houses the defects in which	
	were remedied without the issue of	
	Closing Orders ...	1
„	Dwelling Houses which after the making	
	of Closing Orders were put in a fit state	
	for human habitation ...	27

The general character of the defects found on inspection may be classified as—

a. EXTERNAL—faulty roofs, spouting, D traps and defect in drains.

b. INTERNAL—defects in ceilings, floors, stairs and dirty walls, windows which could not be opened.

All defects were, with two exceptions (where Closing Orders were made), promptly remedied or are in course of being remedied after the making of informal notices.

No case of overcrowding has been dealt with officially, but one case was remedied after informal action was taken.

No house has been built or completed during the year, and no house is in course of erection. Two dilapidated or otherwise defective houses have been restored and made fit for human habitation.

All new houses are erected in accordance with the Council's Byelaws.

C.—Sanitary Administration in the District.

a. The Officials are a Medical Officer of Health and a Sanitary Inspector.

b. The Hospital accommodation for Infectious Diseases consists of beds in the Calne and District Isolation Hospital where cases of Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria and Typhoid Fever can be isolated and treated.

The Staff of the Hospital consists of a Medical Superintendent, a Caretaker and Matron. Nurses are obtained when required. The Sanitary Inspector superintends the removal of patients to the Hospital. They are removed in an ambulance carriage which is disinfected after each removal.

The clothing, bedding, &c., used by the patients is disinfected in a Thresh's Disinfector at the Hospital.

c. The following are the Adoptive Acts in force in the area:—

Public Health (Amendment) Act, 1890. Part ii.

Public Health Acts (Amendment Acts) 1907.

Part ii, Sect. 34—51.

Part iv, v, vi.

Part x, Sect. 92, 93, 95.

Borough Byelaws including Dairies and Cowshed Orders are enforced.

d. Four Bacteriological examinations for Diphtheria have been necessary during 1913.

D.—Prevalence and Control of Acute Infectious Diseases.

One case of Scarlet Fever, 2 cases of Diphtheria, 12 cases of Erysipelas, and 1 case of Typhoid Fever have been notified.

The case of Scarlet Fever, and the 2 cases of Diphtheria (from different localities) were removed to the Isolation Hospital, and no further cases occurred.

The Typhoid Fever case was isolated at home and no further case occurred.

An epidemic of Measles, which continued for the last three-fourths of the year, made it necessary to advise the closing of the three Infant Schools of the Town.

The Head Teachers of the Elementary Schools promptly notify the Medical Officer of Health of all cases of absence from School due to Infectious or Contagious Diseases.

E.—Prevalence and Control of Tuberculosis.

Three cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and one case of Tubercular Joint Disease have been notified. One of these cases was not a permanent resident and almost immediately left the Town. The other two cases are at

present well. The Joint Disease case came to reside in the Town and had the disease on arrival.

a. Each case of Tuberculosis on being notified is visited by the Medical Officer and steps are taken to isolate them as far as possible, and also to enable them to deal with their sputum by supplying them with proper vessels.

b. No subsequent visits are made as a rule.

c. Wherever possible attempts will be made to detect unrecognised cases associated with notified cases.

d. In all cases the advice and assistance of the County Tuberculosis Officer is sought, and every case is further notified to the County Medical Officer of Health.

e. In cases of death the rooms used by the patient are thoroughly cleansed. The paper is removed, the room is whitewashed, and then subjected to disinfection. The infected clothing and bedding is destroyed, compensation being paid for such destruction where it is necessary.

Table 1.—Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1913 and previous Years.

*Name of District—***CALNE URBAN.**

YEAR.	Popu- lation estimated to middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.			Total Deaths registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.			
		Un-cor- rected number	Nett.		Number.	Rate.	of Non- residents not registered in the District.	of Resi- dents not registered in the District.	Under 1 Year of Age		At All Ages.	
			Num- ber.	Rate.					Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1908	3456	81	81	23.4	58	16.9	10	2	7	86.4	50	14.2
1909	3456	80	80	23.1	52	15.0	6	3	10	125.0	49	14.1
1910	3459	81	80	22.8	53	15.3	6	2	9	113.9	49	14.2
1911	3539	80	76	21.4	56	15.8	3	5	3	39.4	58	16.3
1912	3563	60	59	13.7	64	17.9	8	1	7	101.6	57	16.1
1913	3558	62	62	17.4	49	13.7	4	4	5	101.04	49	13.7

Area of District in)
acres (land and) 3460
inland water)

Total Population at all ages ... 3539
Number of inhabited houses ... 853
Average number of persons per house 4.14

At Census, 1911

Table II.—Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1913.

*Name of District—***CALNE URBAN.**

Notifiable Disease	At all Ages.	Number of Cases Notified.							Total cases re-moved to Hospital.
		At Ages—Years.							
		Under 1	1 and under 5 years	5 and under 15 years.	15 and under 25 years.	25 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.	65 and upwards.	
Diphtheria (including Membranous croup)	2			1	1				2
Erysipelas ...	1						1		
Scarlet Fever ..	1		1						1
Enteric Fever ...	1					1			
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	3					2	1		
Other forms of Tuberculosis ...	1			1					
Totals ...	9		1	2	1	3	2		3

*Isolation Hospital, or Hospitals, Sanatoria, &c.—*Calne District Isolation Hospital.

Table III.—Causes of, and Ages at Death during the Year 1913. Name of District—CALNE URBAN.

CAUSES OF DEATH.		Nett Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the District. (a)										Total Deaths whether of "Residents" or "Non-Residents," in Institutions in the District (b).
		All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2 years.	2 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.	15 and under 25 years.	25 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.	65 and upwards.		
1		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
All Causes (Certified Uncertified		49	5		1	1	2	5	9	26	49	
3. Measles	...	1			1						1	
7. Influenza	...	1								1	1	
9. Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	2					1	1			2	
12. Cancer (malignant Disease)	...	2										
15. Organic Heart Disease	...	5					1		1	1	2	
16. Bronchitis	...	4	1						1	4	7	
17. Pneumonia (all forms)	...	2						1		1	4	
18. Other diseases of respiratory organs	...	2	1								2	
19. Diarrhoea and Enteritis	...	1							1	1	2	
20. Appendicitis & Typhlitis	...	1								1	1	
21. Cirrhosis of Liver	...	3						1	2		3	
21a. Alcoholism	...	1								1	1	
22. Nephritis and Bright's Disease	...	2						1		1	2	
25. Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth	...	2	2								2	
26. Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide	...	2	1			1					1	
27. Suicide	...	2							1	1	1	
28. Other Defined Diseases.	...	14						1	2	11	14	
29. Diseases ill-defined or unknown	...	2							1	1	2	
Totals		49	5		1	1	2	5	9	26	49	

(a) All "Transferable Deaths" of residents, i.e., of persons resident in the District who have died outside it, are to be included with the other deaths in columns 2—10. Transferable deaths of non-residents, i.e., of persons resident elsewhere in England and Wales who have died in the District, are in like manner to be excluded from these columns.

The total deaths in column 2 of Table III. should equal the figures for the year in column 12 of Table I.

(b) All deaths occurring in institutions for the sick and infirm situated within the district, whether of residents or of non-residents, are to be entered in the last column of Table III.

In recording the facts under the various headings of Tables I, II, III. and IV., attention has been given to the notes on the Tables.

RALPH S. FERGUSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

Feb. 25th, 1914.